



U-Pick/Agricultural Tourism Farm Guidance during the COVID-19 Pandemic

SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, is a virus that causes primarily respiratory illness, although vomiting and diarrhea have been reported in a subset of cases. Foodborne viruses, such as norovirus or hepatitis A, often make people ill through contaminated food. Currently, there is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted by food or food products. The virus is spread mainly from person-to-person, this includes people in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). It is also spread through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets may remain on surfaces or be transported in the air.

This guidance was updated November of 2020 after the Governor issued the “[freeze](#)” orders to help Oregon’s U-Pick, direct sales, and agricultural tourism farms during COVID-19.

Can U-Pick farms and agricultural tourism operate during the COVID-19 pandemic? Yes.

U-Pick and agritourism operations must follow the Governor's Executive Orders, [OR-OSHA Infectious Disease Rule](#), and the [Oregon Health Authority \(OHA\) Retail Guidance](#) to remain open and operate safely. All businesses, including U-Pick, direct sales, and agricultural tourism farms, must follow the [OR-OSHA Infectious Disease Rule](#) and implement the requirements which include signage, an infection control plan, and employee training and education.

To help reduce transmission of COVID-19, farms must adopt the following practices:

OUTDOOR ON-FARM GUIDANCE

- **Physical distancing on-farm:** Farms that offer U-Pick/agricultural tourism activities must implement rigorous physical distancing policies. For example, businesses should:
 - Post [signage](#) at prominent locations to remind customers to remain 6 feet apart from those who are not a part of their group and keep children with them at all times.
 - Revise usual layout to limit congestion in normal high-traffic areas.
 - Set up operations to allow for proper distance between employees and customers.
- **Face coverings on-farm:** Employees and customers are required use a mask or face covering on the farm at all times. For additional details follow the [OHA Statewide Mask and Face Covering Guidance](#).
 - Post [signage](#) about required face coverings.
 - Customers are allowed to use their own masks and face coverings.
- **Minimize touchpoints:** Farms should reduce the number of touchpoints accessible to customers as much as possible. Best practices on the farm include:
 - Minimizing the handling of crops and products.
 - Product sampling is allowed under a take model only (follow the [OHA Retail Guidance](#) for sampling found on page 2).
 - Restrict operation of weigh stations, check-outs, and other facility operations to employees only.
 - Clean and sanitize any farm-provided reusable containers and high touchpoints between customers following [CDC guidelines](#).



INDOOR ON-FARM GUIDANCE

- Non-farm stands that are indoor retail spaces need to implement [Appendix A-2 Mandatory Workplace Guidance for Retail Stores](#) of the OR-OSHA Infectious Disease Rule.
- During the current “freeze” orders issued under [EO 20-65](#), food and beverage services are limited to a take-out only model and retail spaces need to reduce approved occupancy to 75 percent. Additional details are found in the [Oregon Health Authority \(OHA\) Retail Guidance](#).

FOR CUSTOMERS

- Do not visit a farm if you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have come in contact with someone with COVID-19.
- Strictly follow all on-farm guidelines, including physical distancing and face coverings.
- If bringing your own picking containers to the farm, they should be washed, disinfected, and rinsed before arrival following [CDC guidelines](#). Follow the disinfectant manufacturer’s label directions.
- Children should remain with the family groups at all times.
- Do not sample products at any time and do not touch products you are not taking home with you.

Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 Resources



Oregon Department of Agriculture COVID-19 Resources

